

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 EUR-25

NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 OIC-04

AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /149 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 477

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

ALL MBFR MISSIONS 012

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9202

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

EO 11652C GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: AHG CONTINGENCY PRESS RESPONSE TO SOVIET PROPOSAL

DURING ITS EVENING MEETING TO CONSIDER ALLIED TACTICS VIS-A-VIS
THE TROOP REDUCTION PROPOSAL PROMISED BY THE USSR AT NOVEMBER
8 PLENARY (REPORTED SEPTEL, THE AHG AGREED ON CONTINGENCY
REACTIONS TO POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF
THE GROUP THAT THERE WAS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THE SOVIETS WOULD
SOONER OR LATER SEEK TO EXPLOIT THEIR PROPOSAL PUBLICLY.
THE AHG FELT THAT IT MUST BE PREPARED TO MEET POSSIBLE PRESS
QUERIES AS EARLY AS NOV 8. THE GROUP WILL MEET IF NECESSARY
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PLENARY TO AMEND THE AGREED GUIDANCE IF
ACTUAL SOVIET TEXT CONTAINS IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENTS. TEXT AS
PRESENTLY AGREED FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

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I. IT WILL NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO REVEAL THE DETAILS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL.

II. THE ALLIES SHOULD MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL. THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE IN THE AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO THE COUNCIL.

III. SINCE IT IS LIKELY THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL QUICKLY FIND ITS WAY INTO THE PRESS IN ANY EVENT, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES.

IV. CONTINGENCY POINTS FOR RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES:

A. IF ASKED BY THE PRESS ONLY TO CONFIRM THAT SOVIETS HAVE MADE A PROPOSAL WE COULD RESPOND THAT EACH SIDE IS ADVANCING ITS SUGGESTIONS.

B. IF MORE EXPLICIT INQUIRIES ARE MADE BY THE PRESS, BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF DETAILS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS ON LINES ALREADY RATHER FULLY FORESHADOWED BY THE BREZHNEV STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 26 AND CONTAINS AN ELABORATION OF THE CONCEPTS IN THAT STATEMENT. WE SHOULD REMIND THE PRESS THAT THE ALLIES HAVE ALREADY OUTLINED THEIR APPROACH TO MBFR, WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MAIN CONSIDERATIONS: (POINTS BELOW ARE DRAWN FROM QUARLES BACK-GRINDER USED ON OCTOBER 31.)

1. THE PURPOSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE MILITARY EUROPE WHILE MAINTAINING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTIES.

2. OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS A COMMON CEILING ON THE GROUND PERSONNEL OF EACH SIDE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMBAT CAPABILITIES. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER, WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS GOAL TO BE REALIZED IN ONE NEGOTIATING PHASE. THUS, WE INTEND INITIALLY TO FOCUS ON REDUCTIONS OF US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES, LEADING TOWARD OUR ULTIMATE GOAL.

3. TO MAINTAIN UNDIMINISHED SECURITY, A REDUCTION AGREEMENT MUST

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TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MAJOR DISPARITIES FAVORING THE WARSAW PACT IN GEOGRAPHY, MANPOWER AND CHARACTER OF OPPOSING FORCES.

4. TO MAINTAIN UNDIMINISHED SECURITY, AND TO ENHANCE STABILITY, OTHER MEASURES BESIDES REDUCTIONS WILL BE NEEDED. THESE INCLUDE MEASURES TO ENHANCE STABILITY, DIMINISH THE RISK OF MISCALCULATION AND THE FEAR OF SURPRISE ATTACK, VERIFY REDUCTIONS, AND GUARD AGAINST CIRCUMVENTION.

5. NOTHING WE AGREE UPON WITH RESPECT TO CENTRAL EUROPE SHOULD LEAD TO A REDUCTION OF SECURITY IN OTHER AREAS, NOR PREJUDICE THE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

6. WE RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER, BUT ARE CONFIDENT THAT AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE STUDYING THE SOVIET PROPOSALS BUT THE CONSIDERATIONS WE HAVE ALREADY OUTLINED TO THEM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WIL BE THE STANDARD BY WHICH WE JUDGE ANY PROPOSALS.

C. IF ASKED WHAT THE ALLIES ARE DOING IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, WE WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESENT THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF OUR APPROACH TO MBFR. END OF TEXT.
HUMES

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NNN

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VIS-A-VIS
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